

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MISHI JAIN

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 24, 2013*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Mishi Jain is a junior at Elkins High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Thomas Jefferson once said "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only objective of [a] good government." Jefferson is correct when he describes the objectives of a government. A government's role is not to coerce or force citizens, but, rather, a government's roles include guiding, assisting, and taking care of the lives of citizens. A government's primary obligation is to uphold the best interest of the people and to take actions that will enhance societal welfare.

To begin, the government must function as a mechanism that protects its people from foreign invasions and other threats. In order to fulfill its primary obligation, a government must take all and any actions necessary to protect our nation and its people. It has become evident through past events where the United States was under attack or under threat, and necessary action was taken to preserve the safety and wellbeing of the people. Whether it be against foreign threats or domestic threats, a government must make the nation a safe place to be. Furthermore, governments must also regulate companies and the market to ensure that corruption should not take place. To prevent a situation like that of during the late 1800s where corruption was prominent and big businesses acted as monopolies, a government, like ours today, is needed to ensure that there is a sufficient standard of economic wellbeing and that all businesses are getting a fair chance. Therefore, a major role of the government is to monitor economic practices and place laws to regulate those as well. Finally, a government's obligation is to take care of those who are underprivileged or may not be as lucky as others. It must regulate social security, help out the unemployed, and assist families that are financially unstable. As a government, it is of the utmost importance that it takes into account all of the issues mentioned and ensure that these issues are taken care of. Many people in our country need help, and in order to uphold societal welfare, a government must help out everyone equally.

In retrospect, a government's main and most important role is to secure the lives of

its people. These lives are extremely significant and a government must take all actions necessary in the best interest of the society and its people. Therefore, Jefferson was correct and making the assertion that "the care of human life and happiness [. . .] is the first [. . .] objective of a government."

REINTRODUCING "JUSTICE FOR  
WARDS COVE WORKERS ACT"

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 24, 2013*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the "Justice for Wards Cove Act" to correct a grave injustice against thousands of Asian-American workers that took place over a quarter century ago.

In the 1970s, workers of Filipino, Samoan, Chinese, Japanese and Native American descent traveled north during the summer to work in the fish canneries in Alaska. Management at the Wards Cove Packing Company treated these migrant workers differently from white workers. They were forced to eat in separate dining halls, sleep in separate bunkhouses, and were unable to rise to top-paying positions in the company.

In 1973, two Seattle Filipino labor activists named Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes led several class-action lawsuits on behalf of these Asian-American and Native American cannery workers alleging discrimination in the workplace. In 1989, the Supreme Court ruled against the Wards Cove workers, in *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio*, which became a major impetus for the civil rights community to reverse the tide against employee rights. The result was the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which became the most comprehensive civil rights legislation signed into law since the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

However, what most civil rights communities forgot was that in the final hours before passage of the Civil Rights Act, a highly unusual and narrow amendment was inserted by two Senators from Alaska that exempted the Wards Cove workers from the expansive protections against workplace discrimination outlined in the Civil Rights Act. They feared that the Civil Rights Act could be applied retroactively to the workers.

The Senators' amendment was inserted in Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act, and its sole target was the Wards Cove workers. To date, the Wards Cove workers remain the only people who have been denied the rights promulgated by the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Mr. Speaker, while my bill cannot retroactively alter the Supreme Court's ruling or grant retroactive rights for the Wards Cove workers, it does remove Section 402(b) of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 as a symbolic measure to right the wrong.

This is a legislative fight that I started in 1991, when I first introduced this bill. Each time I introduced this bill, it received bipartisan

support but was never voted on the floor of the House of Representatives. In 1993, then-President Bill Clinton wrote a letter of support for my bill, stating, "It is contrary to all of our ideas to exclude any American from the protection of our civil-rights laws."

Too often, the struggles of Asian-American and other ethnic minorities do not get the attention they deserve by policymakers and law enforcement officials. This issue is about justice and fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Wards Cove workers by supporting this bill.

TRIBUTE TO PALLAVI DEV

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 24, 2013*

MR. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Pallavi Dev is a junior at Glenda Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: Select an important event that has occurred in the past 50 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

THE NEWTOWN SHOOTING

The worst events in our country's history happened when we least expected them. As citizens we carry on with our normal lives, busy within our own bubble of school, family, work, holidays, and so on. But every so often something happens that shakes the foundations upon which our existence is built, and we are reminded of how fragile our bubble is and how easy it is for someone to pop it.

That someone for the people of Newtown, Connecticut was Adam Lanza, a 20-year-old who killed his mother and 25 other students, teachers, and staff in Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Twenty of those he killed were young children, between the ages of 5 and 10, who would have had bright futures before them had their lives not been cut short. The motives for Lanza's actions are still unclear, but it is known that he used a military-style rifle to end the lives of those mentioned and his own. The tragedy of this event has intensified the debate over gun control in the U.S., but more importantly, has reminded us to take a break in our busy lives and be thankful for our family, friends, and everything else we have.

Today the grief that has settled over the nation is like a thick fog that seeps into

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